PUBLIC OPPOSES GOV'T OPERATION

Canvass of 5,154 Editors Shows 4,466 Communities Against Socialistic Experiment.

OPPOSITION GROWING

Eighty-seven Per Cent in 1920 as Against 83 Per Cent in 1919 Think Public Is Opposed to Radicalism.

The American public is more intensely opposed to Government operation than it was a year ago, according to the newspaper editors of the country. Out of 5,154 editors replying to a questionnaire sent out by the Press Service Company of New York, 4,466, or 86 per cent, gave it as their judgment that the people of their communities were overwhelmingly against the Government competing in business with its own citizens.

In 1919 the Press Service Company conducted a similar canvass of editors on the government operation of railroads. That questionnaire showed that 83 per cent of the editors considered their communities against Government operation of public utilities.

Apparently, then, if editors estimate public opinion accurately, that opinion in a year, considered by communities, has swung 3 per cent farther away from socialistic experiments.

Eleven Million Circulation.

The combined circulation of the papers whose editors replied is 11,428,817, which means, according to the usual estimated ratio between circulation and readers, a constituency of at least 44,000,000. And this constituency is pretty evenly scattered throughout the country, no considerable section of any state being unrepresented. The estimate of opinion based on this thoroughly diffused 44 per cent of the country's population may, therefore, be considered a fair representation of the people as a whole.

Another feature of the result is its evident lack of partisan bias. The major political affiliations of the papers represented are fairly evenly divided, being 1,857 Republican and 1,350 Democratic. There are also 1,485 independent and 462 miscellaneous, including labor organs, etc.

How little the results are affected by the politics of the papers is shown in an analysis by sections. In the Southern section, for instance, where replies came from 65 Republican papers and 389 Democratic, the percentage against Government operation was 88; in the Great Lake section, with conditions reversed, 478 Republican and 155 Democratic, the opposition was 87 per cent.

Replies from the West, Middle West and Southwest show that it is a mistake to consider those sections vastly more favorable to radical Government experiments than the East. The radicals can get little comfort out of the 89 per cent of thumbs down—2 per cent above the average—in the Southwest, including Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. Texas, once supposed to be much given to Government regulation experiments, returned 92 per cent of unfavorable replies. Out of the 244 editors replying from that state only three edited Republican papers. The 82 per cent opposition of the Northwest, including Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming, and the 83 per cent veto of the Far West group, including Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Colorado, Utah and Washington, are significant of the prevailing conservative sentiment on this question even in the more radical sections.

Judgment Apparently Unbiased.

The questionnaire closes with a request for the editor's personal opinion on certain concrete cases as follows:

"Do you personally believe that the Federal Government should own and operate competitive industries to provide: (a) Fertilizer? (b) Clothing? (c) Automobiles? (d) Farm implements? (e) Foodstuffs?

Substantially all the editors who gave estimates of their readers' opinions also expressed their own by replying to this last question. Proof of considerable effort to avoid personal bias is found in the fact that in many cases the editor differed from the opinion he credited to his community. The percentage of "nos" ran: (a) 76; (b) 83; (c) 86; (d) 82; (e) 79.

While the questions were based on general principles involved in the Government participating in competitive business, the so-called Muscle Shoals Bill now before Congress was used as a concrete example of a Government operation scheme. Under this bill a Government-owned corporation would be given broad powers to operate and develop Government plants and properties. It would produce at Muscle Shoals various fertilizer products and sell them in competition with producers and merchants in the fertilizer business.

The strength of the opposition to Government operation is indicated by the replies from Alabama, where the Muscle Shoals war plant is and where, of course, there is intense interest and local pride in getting its expected peace time operation under way at the earliest possible date. Fifty editors from that state replied, of whom 38 were opposed to Government operation, 8 in favor and 4 doubtful.

Why He Stopped Singing.

George was improvising both words and music of the songs he was singing. His mother, being highly entertained by his efforts, kept urging him to sing more of his songs. At last he refused to sing another word. "Why won't you sing one more?" his mother asked. She was somewhat startled when he replied: "Can't, mother. Daddy and I's jailed the union."

Strand tonight, Marjorie Rambeau in "The Fortune Teller."—adv.

Coming—"The Lost City."—adv

Five Minute Chats on Our Presidents

By JAMES MORGAN

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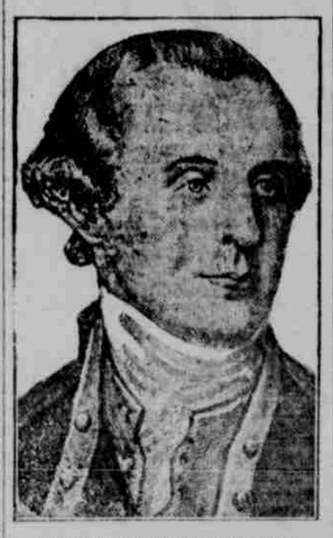
GEORGE WASHINGTON

1732—(Feb. 22) Born near Fredericksburg, Va.
1753—First expedition to the West.
1754—Second expedition.
1755—On staff of Gen. Braddock.
1759—Married Martha Custis.

WASHINGTON was made of the same clay as most Americans who have won high leadership and, like them, he cut his teeth on the crust of poverty. Only four or five of our presidents came from poorer homes than our first president and he had less schooling than four-fifths of his successors. He was, in fact, the only president in the first forty years who was without a college education. Not starting to school until eight, he had to leave at fourteen to go to work. Thenceforth until the Revolution the woods and fields were his only schoolroom and life his only schoolmaster.

We never can truly understand this man if we start with the mistaken idea that he was the product of wealth and aristocracy. His people really were only a plain, though always highly respectable family, living on the outskirts of the cavalier castle which set up its manors in the James river region. George's own father, who at



Washington's Earliest Portrait.

one time had been a sailing captain in the trade with the mother country, left his wife and children at his death five thousand acres of land, more or less unproductive; twenty-two slaves, a slender purse and a lean larder.

While at Mt. Vernon, which his oldest brother, Lawrence, had inherited, he learned the simple rudiments of surveying, and Lord Fairfax, who lived nearby, employed him to survey a vast estate in the Valley of Virginia.

In his young manhood Washington found his "inclinations strongly bent to arms." To soften arms than those of Mars the young militarist also was inclined.

Prying posterity finds him at sixteen pining for a mysterious "lowland beauty," who would not have the penniless surveyor. He received also by his own confession a "cruel sentence" from a "Miss Betsy," and afterward was rejected by Miss Phillipse of New York. At last the oft-disappointed wooer came to the White House on the Pamunkey, and once more he lost his heart. The mistress of the manor, Mrs. Martha Dandridge Custis, was wise enough to keep it, being a widow of seven years, the mother of two fatherless children, the owner of large estates.

When flying embers from the war fields of Europe ignited the savage forests of the New World, Washington was a militia major, and he was dispatched on a mission to the Ohio, a perilous journey of ten weeks through a wintry desolation. The next year he went again with a band of soldiers, for now the Seven Years' war had spread to America. His campaign was hardly a glorious failure, but he reported that he liked to hear the bullets whistle.

Now General Braddock came to scorn the colonial breed while he showed them how British regulars fought in proper, soldierly formation. The undrilled red children of the forest stubbornly refusing to fight on the European plan, Braddock fell amid his panic-stricken troops on the Monongahela. At the head of his grave in the wilderness the prayers for the dead were read by Colonel Washington.

Although Washington had won no battles, he had made a most important conquest. When the Seven Years' war came he was still an Englishman, and to him an island three thousand miles away still was home. In his contact with British officers he was shocked to find them aliens to him and his New World and himself only a colonial in their eyes. With native condescension they undertook to teach him his place, but with native independence he objected.

By the time the Seven Years' war was over the colonial colonel no longer was an Englishman. That illusion was gone and had left Washington an American.

State of Ohio, City of Toledo, Lucas County—ss.
Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is senior partner of the firm of F. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of HALL'S CATARRH MEDICINE.
FRANK J. CHENEY.
Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1886.
(Seal) A. W. Gleason, Notary Public.
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Business-Professional Guide